

1. (Amended) An IC contact unit, comprising:

an actuator including a movable plunger;
a depressing member pivotably movable in relation to said plunger;
a movable support including an IC contact point and a pawl member, said movable support being movable by said depressing member and said pawl member being movable by said depressing member between a first position in which it projects to a card transfer line and a second position in which it retreats upward from said card transfer line;
and

wherein the force of an IC card moved into contact with said pawl member moves said movable support such that said IC contact point contacts with the IC card.

12. (Amended) An IC card reader, comprising:

a card reader main body;
a plurality of transfer rollers disposed about a card transfer line formed in said card reader main body; and

an IC contact unit, comprising:

an actuator including a movable plunger;
a depressing member pivotably movable in relation to said plunger;
a movable support including an IC contact point and a pawl member, said movable support being movable in a direction of the card transfer line by said depressing member and said pawl member being movable by said

depressing member between a first position in which it projects to a card transfer line and a second position in which it retreats upward from said card transfer line; and

wherein the force of an IC card moved by said transfer rollers into contact with said pawl member moves said movable support such that said IC contact point contacts with the IC card.

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cont. 18. (Amended) A method for reading information on an IC card, comprising the

steps of:

moving the IC card along a card transfer line;

contacting the IC card with a pawl member of a movable support;

utilizing the force from the movement of the IC card to move the movable support between a position in which the pawl member is above the card transfer line to a position in which the pawl member projects to the card transfer line and an IC contact point located on a lower surface of the movable support contacts with the IC card; and

reading information on the IC card.
